VISCOUNT

PT 3 BY JASON WELCH

ΓHREE DAYS LATER THE VISCOUNT PASSES

THE MOON

From crew quarters GENE and ERIC come into their operations centre, GENE steps up into the cockpit to observe stars passing by the side view concave window

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD IIM FERGUSSON MOON NOW ERIC. ERIC

Are we there yet? COMING UP ON THE

I'LL BUY THAT FOR

DOLLAR.





TWO WEEKS AFTER THEY CAN SEE MARS IN A CONCAVE WINDOW ON THE RIGHT.

McDOOGLE We don't have to slow down for you to eject the pods for a soft landing on the moon.

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD And I don't have to out my spacesuit on ,just load the ejector tubes.

GENE MOCKFORD It loads into like a torpedo

and you can fire it directly at a target on the surface of MARS with a telescopic eye connected to your console.

ERIC AND GENE ARE IN THE CARGO

HOLD,.....They take two pods from the gally and put them into the ejector tubes, then find a landing sight

using a telephoto lens attached to the operations console

IIM FERGUSSON You can't live in a vacuum, you know.

GENE No, but you can clean

your house with one? GENE MOCKFORD These pods have parachutes that create a soft landing on the surface as well as buoyant outer shell that retract when it's landed. IIM FERGUSSON Then the terraforming program starts. ERIC YOUNGBLOOD These hydroponic plant seeds are designed to oxygenate the atmosphere of mars. GENE Plants chosen for photosynthesis with flood lamps on the shell of a oiodome. IIM FERGUSSON READY FOR US TO LAND NEAR AND START A NEW LIFE . IIM FERGUSSON Should arrive on Olympus MARS to create the first biodome and start growing plants to oxygenate the atmosphere. GABBY MCDOOGLE That's right, there might be a rich forest undergrowth and oxygen rich atmosphere within the biodome which fans out when the pod lands. GENE MOCKFORD What you mean is plants breath in carbons and create oxygen. IIM FERGUSSON That's right Genie didn't you do general science at a-level. GENE MOCKFORD No, I was too busy sniffing glue and hanging around shopping malls. ERIC YOUNGBLOOD Two pods ejected.
GABBY MCDOOGLE Well done Eric.

IM FERGUSSON

Course corrections for our rendezvous with the Jupiter shuttle in geostationary orbit around the red eye of Jupiter.

GABBY MCDOOGLE

GABBY MCDOOGLE

Jupiter shuttle are you ready to receive.

THERE'S A REPLY PATCHED THROUGH THE SHIPS INTERCOM.

ANDREW STERLING

I'm activating the noming signal now that will guide you in.

Two months latter VISCOUNT is reaching orbit around the gas giant of JUPITER,

GENE walks from the kitchenette while applying

foundation makeup to her face, and rouge lipstick and the crew tuck in to their meal of QUAKER PORRIDGE OATS and HOT DOGS in the operations room.

GABBY McDOOGLE There's no food in

But they have found some basic plant life on the red planet.

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD Yes that's quite true but

space and nothing grows.

for real food we'll have to cultivate the land.

IIM FERGUSSON Statistically there
must be 10 m-class planets within our galaxy capable of
sustaining life.

Coming up on IO where rendezvous above the gas

giants of JUPITER.

From a tannoy speaker above the airlock door :-

ANDREW STERLING I have you on

oositive.

IIM FERGUSSON Well done

ANDREW I'm activating breaking.

GENE MOCKFORD I've got a knot in my

stomach.

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD Yes it must be the

magnetic pull of the red eye of Jupiter giving you a

weak stomach.

IIM FERGUSSON I have visual sighting.

maneuvering into position, fireing umbilical line on my

nark.





VISCOUNT reaches orbit above the red eye of JUPITER near the small space station and GABBY McDOOGLE fires an umbilical tunnel attaches itself and inflates until it can allow passage through.

IIM FERGUSSON

KIDS, WHO NEEDS

гнем?

VISCOUNTS crew assemble near the airlock and then walk through the umbilical tunnel into an airlock, which pressurizes. The inner doors slides back revealing the operations room of the JUPITER BASE, where ANDREW STERLING is waiting.

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD

Pack your

pags ANDREW you're going home to your basement

flat in FELIXSTOWE . ANDREW STERLING

B ack to

that rat trap, i'm getting my GREEN CARD and moving to FLORIDA.

IIM FERGUSSON

Is the

DIMENSION GATE ready to send a man through .

ANDREW STERLING` Two test capsules have passed through the DIMENSION GATE and havn't returned .

IIM FERGUSSON Then it's up to you ERIC, to go through the DIMENSION GATE .

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD LET ME PUT MY SPACESUIT ON .

GABBY McDOOGLE And i'll activate the DIMENSION GATE from our operations console next to ANDREWS mixing decks and LP'S, once your in

che galaxy .

GENE

off planet .

IIM FERGUSSON

gates jump to another part of another part of

The scientific theory

osition.

IIM FERGUSSON

department of LOWLANDS university has invested so much in the cyclotron and particle accelerator that become the twin arcs in geostationary orbit adjacent to this capsule, we're hoping for a giant leap for mankind. ERIC YOUNGBLOOD

I'll have a scout

round make a survey of the area, and then return via the DIMENSION GATE.

IIM FERGUSSON While you're exploring the galaxy, we'll be sending a probe directly into the red

eye of JUPITER to retrieve a few samples.

Jim snaps a helmet onto ERICS space suit and he steps nto the airlock, pressurizing his suit before the

compartment becomes a vacuum.

The outer door slides back revealing the black void of space.

Chalk it up, I can see IO,



He steps out into the black void of space and uses his maneuvering thrusters towards the large oval shape which is marked out with solar sales.

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD I'm getting near the dimension gate now. Can you activate.

IIM FERGUSSON Yes Eric, all our hopes are with you.

In the operations room, GABBY McDOOGLE activates the DIMENSION GATE and 20 meter arcs nfused with power from solar sails, rotate 40" creating a mercury pool with light reflecting off its rippling surface.

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD I'll maneuver into the surface of the mercury pool And let the dimension Gate take me to another part of time and space.

GATE and moments later finds himself in a blue room on a platform with soft resin panels and a human in charcoal gray trousers and lime green tunic maning a control console.

He accelerates into the surface of the DIMENSION

From a wall mounted speaker above a sliding door a voice says.

We have just done a full body scan of you since yo

We have just done a full body scan of you since you arrived through the dimension Gate ,and we're talking to you in your natural language English .

A slim woman with brown chestnut hair and a floor

A slim woman with brown chestnut hair and a floor length cream suit, comes in comes in and escorts Eric off the dimension platform and over to a concave viewing gallery and presses a button for the shutters to roll up and presses a button for the shutter to roll up revealing planet keldorf far below Our ancestors came to this planet a long time ago from another part of the galaxy.

WE OF KALDOR BID YOU WELCOME FO OUR PLANET, JENNY WILL BRING YOU FO THE FLIGHT DECK OF THIS COLONY SHIP ORBITING PLANET KALDOR.



VERONICA PLEASE COME WITH ME TO THE FLIGHT DECK, COMMANDER STENTON WILL DEBRIEF YOU. ERIC YOUNGBLOOD v31 I want your assurance that I'm going to be unharmed. YOUR IN CAPABLE HANDS IENNY ERIC. He follows JENNY along a red and white corridor, with a maroon tiled axminster carpet, following a chart on esin paneled walls giving directions through the space station, past flight suited men and women and through a sliding door into the bridge. These VOC ROBOTS are IENNY functionaries, you'll get used to them. ERIC YOUNĠBLOŎD I'M GLAD TO BE HERE WHEREVER HERE IS? They walk around a hexagonal upper gantry and rest on the guard rail surrounding the command bridge, where STENTON RELL is sitting in his command chair receiving reports and coordinating, using a shipwide INTERCOM. IENNY Our hyperspace jump gate has picked you up this humanoid commander, says he's ERIC YOUNGBLOOD from SOL 3 in the western spiral arm of our galaxy. RELL He was travelling the vortex you say

you're a lucky lad .
YOUNGBLOOD EXPLAIN.

COMMANDER REL A network of DIMENSION GATES allow near instant travel

between light years of space in moments thanks to the FIMES-COLOR-SUPPLEMENT in your daily paper,

and all unregistered traffic is diverted to this OMEGA station. YOUNGBLOOD TERRIFIC

COMMANDER REL DIMENSION GATES are accessed by CODECS keyed into their control consoles.

control consoles .
YOUNGBLOOD Ours was built by CLICKNALOGIC inc. from SOL 3, in the western

spiral arm of the milky way galaxy, maybe you've heard of it.

COMMANDER REL

That area is mostly

uncharted, way out of the space lanes. ERIC YOUNGBLOOD We'll I'd love to stay and that ,but I've just got engaged and the little wife just can't wait.

COMMANDER REL

examine your flight plan and send you home, and you don't want to jump into a black hole without a CAFE LATTE and a CINNAMON BAGEL, so consider

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD THEN I'M ALL YOURS REL.
COMMANDER REL This is the ark ship that

yourself our guest.

REL gets off his CHROME and WICKER chair and walks around his mahogany desk across a lemon tiled carpet and ushers YOUNGBLOOD out into the

corridor, and along the main gantry to a shuttle bay.

COMMANDER REL I'll take you

down to our city.

They enter the flight deck, where streamlined shuttles are stationed in docking silos connected to recharge booths, and REL activates one. They alight and RELL sits in front of the reactorlite visored cockpit Conveyors take the pursuit ship out of its sylo depositing it in front of a sliding panel that opens revealing the black void of space and planet KALDOR from high altitude.

The shuttle zooms out of the bay and points it's nose, with reactolite windshield, at the planet below, entering the atmosphere from high altitude and through a cloud bank

ERIC can see a cityscape far away in the middle of a sandy desert region stretching for many miles to mountains on the horizon. The shuttle flies low over a train track and zooms towards the city.

STENTON RELL THIS IS KALDOR CITY.



They fly over the skyline of KALDOR CITY with

che high skyscrapers and align for a controlled landing on a helipad on the top of COMPANY CENTRAL.

RELL The city has grown since our

forefathers travelled through the galaxy on a long voyage to find a new homeworld when the sun powering MAGRATHEA went SUPERNOVA centuries ago.

REL clambers out of his command chair and into the

operations room, then activates the doors that slide up and they walk through an ornamental garden to a metal chamber and call a lift ,descending to ground level . They come out into a reception with navy blue tilled carpet and square columns up to a polystyrene tiled ceiling illuminated with strip lights, and walk over through a glass partition into LANDERCHILDS suite of monitoring rooms .

On an upper gantry, more of the robotic servitors, V-O-C, are coordinating below a map of the city, and adjudicators in KALDOR POLICE uniform, blood red garments with silver moon boots, white shoulder pads and floor length white cape, are seeing to the citizens with COMM PORTS connected to tannoy speakers throughout the city.

LANDERCHILD WELCOME ERIC.

gantry says [I REQUIRE YOUR ATTENTION FIRST MASTER]
LANDERCHILD stepps up to the monitoring station

A V-O-C ROBOT in a silver costume on the upper

dominated by an aerial view of the city saying [WHAT] S WRONG V21 V2 Someone has broken into the ROBOT CONTROL RECORDS SECTION STENTON RELL Seal off the area .I'll have a team down there and trace them. He calls the adjudicator operations room with his wrist comm. RELL There being tracked now FIRST MASTER, and there heading for the space port, LANDERCHILD Probably in league with the THE SONS OF KALDOR. STENTON REL And if they've got the blueprints for the robot design there worth a fortune on the GALACTIC market. LANDERCHILD Cancel all flights OFF-WORLD and have a team of your men checking ID at the spaceport. STENTON RELL I'll join my team there. ERIC YOUNGBLOOD And I'm your guest till you catch them. Is that right FIRST MASTER? LANDERCHILD A11 commercial flights are cancelled till we catch the data hief. ON A VIEWING SCREEN A LIVE REPORT FROM THE SPACE PORT SHOWS CITIZENS BEING ID CHECKED BY KALDOR POLICE . LANDERCHILD I can get you back to your JUPITER space station if I can have that report

ERIC . ERIC YOUNGBLOOD

spiral arm of the milky way galaxy FIRST MASTER. LANDERCHILD I'll

The western

LANDERCHILD

nave V31 take you over if you can give us your PRIFIX
CODE of your DIMENSION GATE,
From the raised gantry a V-O-C ROBOT leaves his

monitoring station and walks down an access ramp to stand near a silver cabinet in the corner of the room. ERIC YOUNGBLOOD Your planet is lovely and I'll recommend an exchange program, hope you catch your data thief.

LANDERCHILD V31 can cross with you and will install a COMM UNIT in your JUPITER station, stage one of integrating your people with the GALACTIC FEDERATION.

ERIC follows V31 into a travel tube that takes them in a norizontal carriage through a perspex tube out of the

building and through the city 100 ft above ground level

at high speed through similar buildings with rock gardens and tropical paradise below leading to residential areas in HEXAGONAL ZONES.

They are deposited in the lobby of the spaceport and walk past KALDOR POLICE into the evening air over

a tarmaced runway where they find a shuttle, and walk in. ERIC sits in the operations room and v31 steps up to a central console and powers up the shuttle which zooms up into the stratosphere.

The shuttle enters the bay and conveyors take it to a

docking silo, the cabin repressurising ERIC follows V31 out into the gantry of OMEGA station and along to the bridge where RELL is waiting .ERIC leans on the nexagonal guard rail. ERIC It's a long way back to earth in our VISCOUNT spaceship, so From a monitoring station below the main viewing screen V32 reports V32 A spaceship is leaving OMEGA without an authorization commander. STENTON RELL TRACK IT V32 ERIC YOUNGBLOOD What's the trouble? RELL They have the blueprints for

V-O-C robots, a valuable weapon in the wrong hands. ERIC YOUNGBLOOD You're gonna pursue this killer throughout the galaxy and get the blueprints back before it starts a galactic war, is that it RELL?

RELL We'll pursue him, but he's an alien, a RUTAN shapeshifter who can take the likeness of his victims, infiltrating our community.

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD that's how they got past your security?

RELL Prey they don't find out

about your planet.
ERIC YOUNGBLOOD Could this conflict spread to earth, I have to know?
V31 I have the coordinates to send you to your DIMENSION GATE, with the SUNDAY MIRROR newspaper dated 20 th JULY

RELL This is why I intend to send the V31 back with you and create a forward listening post incase of alien invasion. He gets out of his command bay and walks out of the hexagonal guardrail joining Eric and v31, and they leave the bridge down the central gantry and into the transporter room. If you like to put your space suit on and step onto that platform I've located your dimension gate within the vortex. And with the help of V31 I can get back here with some of my comrades.? RELLI walks to a waist high console and activates the dimension gate, and v31ERIC shimmer out of existence to find themselves ejected from a 20 foot wide dimension gate, above the red eye of Jupiter from a rippling mercury pool. He uses his maneuvering thrusters towards the space station and patches into the INTECOM.

amazing story for you, I found humans on the

Have I got an

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD

other side of the galaxy

GABBY McDOOGLE I'LL let you in the airlock.

V31 follows him and grabs handholds next to the airlock door which opens allowing them to enter.

The airlock pressurized and the inner hatch opens .

JIM FERGUSSON WELCOME

BACK

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD This is v31 a robot from planet KALDOR who have a system of dimension gates throughout the galaxy.

V31 is shown to the communications bay and starts setting up.

JIM FERGUSSON We'll leave you here 31.

GENE MOCKFORD Us mere mortals are going back to earth.

The crew of the VISCOUNT walk through the umbilical tunnel and ERIC and GENE start powering up auxiliary systems in the operations room while Jim and Gabby strap into the pilot seats.

ANDREW STERLING Take us home

captain.

JIM FERGUSSON Go for main engine burn every minute till we reach maximum acceleration.

ERIC YOUNGBLOOD I expect I'll become a major celebrity back on earth and they'll be shows and I'll take you with me.

ANDREW STERLING I'll probably go back to seabreeze acres in Dallas and wait for my green card to arrive.

JIM FERGUSSON Well we're on course for planet earth .

GABBY McDOOGLE Are you sure this

windshield is a bit dirty,.

JIM FERGUSSON Prepare for a hero's welcome.

GENE MOCKFORD And then back to our dormitory at Lowlands university in the heart of England.

